

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~An image forming apparatus~~ A belt comprising:
~~a rotating belt for forming an image, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus;~~ and
an arrangement that is attached to a portion along of the rotating belt, wherein
the belt has a Young's modulus and the arrangement having has a Young's modulus
that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the rotating belt.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The ~~image forming apparatus~~ belt according to claim 1, wherein the arrangement is a protection seal that protects an edge of the ~~rotating~~ belt from wearing.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ~~image forming apparatus~~ belt according to claim 1, wherein the arrangement is a scale that is used to detect an amount of movement of the ~~rotating~~ belt.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ~~image forming apparatus~~ belt according to the claim 3, wherein the scale has a width and a length and includes a reflecting part and a non-reflecting part repeatedly disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The ~~image forming apparatus~~ belt according to the claim 3, wherein the scale has a width and a length and includes a magnetic part and a non-magnetic part repeatedly disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The ~~image forming apparatus~~ belt according to the claim

1, wherein the Young's modulus of the rotating belt satisfies a relation:

$$T/ExLx\alpha \leq 0.03 \text{ [millimeter]}$$

where, T is a tension applied to the rotating belt in [N/mm²], E is the Young's modulus of the rotating belt in [megapascals], L is a maximum image length in [millimeter], and α is a percentage fluctuation in the Young's modulus.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): [[The]] An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:

means for forming an image;

a rotating belt for forming the image, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus;

an arrangement that is attached to a portion along the rotating belt, the arrangement

having a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the belt;

a driving unit that drives the rotating belt;

a reading unit that reads the scale; and

a control unit that controls the driving unit based on a result of reading of the scale by the reading unit.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus belt according to claim 1, wherein the arrangement is a stopper, which prevents the rotating belt from biasing toward an edge side at the time of being driven.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

means for forming an image;

means for driving a rotating belt for conveying a medium on which an image is

directly transferred, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus; and

an arrangement that is attached to a portion along the rotating belt, the arrangement having a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the rotating belt.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the arrangement is a protection seal that protects an edge of the rotating belt from wearing.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the arrangement is a scale that is used to detect an amount of movement of the rotating belt.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the scale has a width and a length and includes a reflecting part and a non-reflecting part repeatedly disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the scale has a width and a length and includes a magnetic part and a non-magnetic part repeatedly disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the Young's modulus of the rotating belt satisfies a relation:

$$T/ExLx\alpha \leq 0.03 \text{ [millimeter]}$$

where, T is a tension applied to the rotating belt in [N/mm²], E is the Young's modulus of the rotating belt in [megapascals], L is a maximum image length in [millimeter], and α is a percentage fluctuation in the Young's modulus.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a driving unit that drives the rotating belt;

a reading unit that reads the scale; and

a timing control unit that controls a start timing of an image forming operation based on a result of reading of the reading unit.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the arrangement is a stopper, which prevents the rotating belt from biasing toward an edge side at the time of being driven.